

Application Serial No. 10/616,712
Amendment dated February 7, 2006
Responding to Office Action of October 7, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2005. A request for a one month extension of time and the required fee are enclosed.

The Examiner objected to claims 9 and 15 as being outside the range of their parent claim. Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the objection.

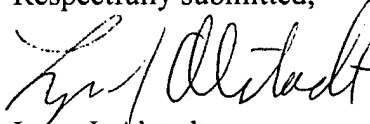
The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 10 under Section 112. Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner noted that claims 12 and 14 are a substantial duplicate of one another. Applicants have cancelled claim 14 in response to this notice.

The Examiner rejected all claims under Section 102(b) citing applicants' published application WO 98/20182 published May 14, 1988. The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 08/745,199, filed November 8, 1996. Therefore, the published application is not prior art under Section 102(b). No other prior art references has been cited by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons the claims are patentable. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn J. Alstadt
Registration No. 29,362
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL, P.C.
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
Attorney for Applicants

(412) 562-1632